

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 AID-05 IO-10

SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /072 W

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R 191217Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4637

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERSUALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6679

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: KNESSET DEBATE ON ARAFAT'S UN SPEECH

1. IN SPECIAL KNESSET DEBAT NOV 18, YASSER ARAFAT AND PLO WERE VIGOROUSLY CONDEMNED BY SPEAKERS FROM ALL PARTIES EXCEPT RAKAH(NEW COMMUNISTS) AND MOKED.

2. FONMIN ALLON DESCRIBED ARAFAT AS LATEST EMBODIMENT OF ARAB FANATICISM, AND SAID HE WAS INCAPABLE OF BEHAVING WITH LOGIC AND MODERATION, HE WARNED THAT PALESTINIANS WOULD BE FIRST TO SUFFER IF ARAFAT IS PERMITTED TO PURSUE HIS EXTREMEIST POLICIES. AFTER PLO "BARED ITS CLAWS". AT UN, ALLON URGED THAT NOW " OUR FRIENDS CANNOT EXCEPT ISRAEL TO TALK TO IT OR RECOGNIZE IT." LOOKING AHEAD, ALLON SAID THAT AFTER DUST OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATE HAD SETTLED, PLO WOULD
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RETURN TO ITS TRUE SIZE, AND ISRAEL'S PERSERVERENCE

AND STRENGTH WOULD DECIDE FINAL OUTCOME. ALLON RETIEREATED
ISRAEL' DESIRE FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT
OF ARAB-ISRAEL DISPUTE AND CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM
OF PALESTINIAN SELF-IDENTITY.

3. LIKUE LEADER MENAHEM BEGIN DECRIED ARAFAT'S APPERANCE
BEFORE UN AS "DAY OF INTERNAL SHAME". HE WARNED THAT IT
WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEPARATE ZIONSIM FROM JUDAISM, AS ARAFAT HAD
SOUGHT TO DO IN HIS SPEECH. BEGIN NOTED THAT ZIONISM HAD
DEVELOPED FROM JURDAISM, AND THE TWO WERE INEXTRICABLE LINKED.
INDEPENDET LIBERAL PARTY LEADER YEHUDA SHAARI URGED ISRAEL
TO AVIOD EXTREMIST STATEMENTS. HE SAW POSSIBILITY OF TALKING
TO OTHER ARABS BUT NOT TO ARAFAT.

4. COMMENT. DEBATE WAS CALLED MAINLY TO PERMIT VARIOUS
PARTIES TO RECORD THEIR VIEWS ON ARAFAT, PLO AND THE UN DEBATE
IN KNESSET FORUM. IT BROKE NO NEW GROUND, BUT SERVED TO
UNDERSCORE VIRTUALLY UNITED OPPOSTIION IN ISRAEL AGAINST
DEALING WITH ARAFAT AND UNIVERSAL REJECTION OF HIS CALL FOR
DEMOCRATIC, SECULAR STATE TO REPLACE ISRAEL.
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